

# The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

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## "Prepare to Meet Thy God"

By EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE

In Amos, chapter 4, verses 10-12, we read, I have sent among you the pestilence after the manner of Egypt: your young men have I slain with the sword, and have taken away your horses; and I have made the stink of your camps to come up into your nostrils: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the Lord. I have overthrown some of you, as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and ye were as a firebrand plucked out of the burning: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the Lord. Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel."

Now notice this: "Because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel." Prepare to meet God! God said it here to Israel; but the message comes down to all of us alike, for the application of the Scriptures is to every living soul. Prepare to meet thy God! I wonder how many today are prepared to meet God.

### I God Is Angry

Let us consider, first, the fact that God is angry. God is angry with unconverted, sinful people. In this Scripture I have just read, God plainly said, 'I have sent trouble after trouble upon you. I have warned you and warned you, and I am angry with you.' The Bible makes it quite clear that God is angry with unconverted sinners. I know God loves sinners, too; but notice this Scripture verse in Psalm 7:11: "God is

angry with the wicked every day." Look at it again: "God is angry with the wicked every day."

In John, the third chapter—the same chapter that has the blessed verse of John 3:16—verse 36 says, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." The anger of God stays on the unbeliever all the time. That is what God says in this same third chapter of John. The anger of God, the wrath of God, stays on the unbeliever all the time.

In Hebrews, chapter 10, verse 31, the Scripture says, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

Now, we had better consider these plain Scriptures. God is (Continued on page three)

## "The Best Book Club in America"

By  
Evangelist Robert J. Wells,  
Associate Editor

The "best book club in America!" Yes, that is the goal we have set for the SWORD BOOK CLUB. There is nothing better than the best, and we have decided that nothing but the best will do. Although during these times of war and stress, we are forced to work under many handicaps and restrictions which definitely limit us in certain phases of our work, yet, we have already made great strides toward our objective. Our correspondence reveals that there are many others also who feel that our club is the "best Christian Book Club in America."

### Satisfied Sword Book Club Members Report

Here are a few of the excerpts from recent correspondence received from members:

"I was delighted when I saw the announcement of the 'SWORD BOOK CLUB,' for I felt it was an answer to prayer. . . I had started praying to God that we might have a Christian Book Club—one where I might loan books to others and know that their soul would be helped nearer to God's kingdom."

"Praise the Lord for this Club, and I pray that it will be a great success."

—Mrs. F. E., Hayfield, Minn.

"I think this is a great idea, and many should avail themselves of the book selections by this group of Christian men."

—V. O. L. S., Fergus Falls, Minn.

"I belong to another book club, but am dropping my membership and joining this one."

R. S., Dysart, Iowa.

"I was made to rejoice that you have established this Club, and I congratulate you on the wise choice of judges. I am sure we can expect to have the best club in America, or in the world."

—Rev. J. O. H., Tehachapi, Calif.

"I think the SWORD BOOK CLUB is the best thing I have heard of in a long time. At least you don't have to worry whether (Continued on page four)

## "The Priority of God's Claims Upon Man"

By EVANGELIST JOE H. HANKINS, D.D.

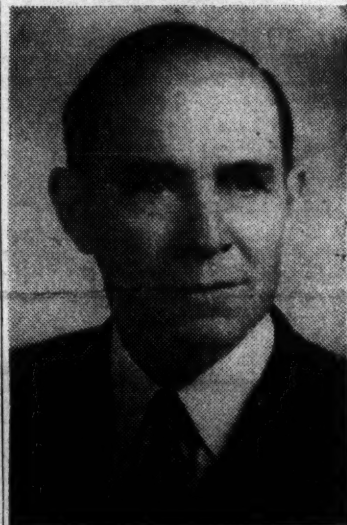
Preached at the First Baptist Church, Little Rock, Arkansas, Sunday morning, November 23, 1941, and stenographically reported.

TEXT: Matt. 6:33. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

We are hearing a great deal in these days about priorities and we are becoming priority conscious. Particularly if a man is in any kind of business, he is brought to realize day after day that he may get what he buys and he may not. It all depends upon whether or not the government steps in with a priority claim. When we ordered the steel for our new temple of worship, we received word that the government had stepped in when those large upright steel columns were ready to ship and said, "We want them." We had to wait, and finally had to substitute smaller columns than we had originally planned.

We recognize the right of the government to do that because we are in an emergency, and our national life is at stake in a world of conflict. We say the government has a right to demand that its needs be met first, regardless of how it inconveniences anybody. We all recognize the right of the government to demand our money, and we pay whatever the govern-

ment says. Some of us may do a lot of grumbling and complaining but we pay it just the same; and we recognize, in spite of our complaining, the government has the right to claim our money. We also recognize that the government has the right to draft our young men into the army—coming



DR. JOE HENRY HANKINS

## WHAT'S COOKIN'

Comments, Reviews, and News  
About Sword Books

By LOLA M. BRADSHAW, Book Editor

As most Sword of the Lord readers know, we publish principally books and booklets by Dr. John R. Rice. This column will appear from time to time giving brief news notes and comments. You wouldn't believe it, but it keeps my tongue hanging out most of the time to keep these thirty-some-odd books and pamphlets in print!

A brand new book of 224 pages will be coming from the bindery in a few days. It is **Revival Appeals**, and consists of sixteen of Dr. Rice's choicest revival sermons. Each one is a gem. The sermon titles are:

1. When God's Patience Wears

Out

2. "Be Sure Your Sin Will Find You Out"

3. What Jesus Said About Hell

4. Will a Loving God Send a Sinner to Hell?

5. Hell—Keep Out!

6. Religious but Lost

7. A Good Man Lost and a Bad Man Saved

8. The Criminal Who Wanted Another Chance

9. How a Lost Sheep Got Home

10. "Come Unto Me"

11. Facing the Pierced Jesus

12. "It Is Finished!"

13. No Room for Jesus

14. Neglect, the Shortest Way to Hell

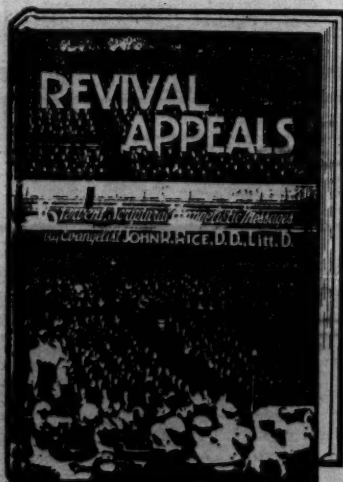
15. "What Must I Do to Be Saved?"

16. Missing God's Last Train for Heaven

If you have had other books of sermons by Dr. Rice, you will be sure to want this one too. If you have not, then you have a lot in store for you. It sells for \$1.50. You may order today, and your order will be placed on file and will be filled in the order they are received as soon as the completed books reach us from the bindery. Don't delay, but order today.

There is a review of Dr. Rice's book, **The Coming Kingdom of Christ**, in the new July issue of **Prophecy Monthly** under the heading, "It's Good." There Dr. Keith L. Brooks, the editor, and presi-

(Continued on page four)



### FOUR PAGES ONLY!

By the Editor

The Sword of the Lord this week has only four pages. This is made necessary by wartime paper restrictions. Twice each month, for the present, you will receive the four page issue of **The Sword of the Lord**. Other issues will be eight pages as before, God willing.

It is our earnest prayer that soon the War Production Board will be able to allow us enough paper to print eight pages each week. Meantime we know you will give your sympathetic understanding.

## With the Evangelists

Reports From America's Outstanding Soul Winners

By Evangelist Robert J. Wells, Associate Editor  
Associate Editor in Christ For Warren (Ohio) Campaign With Fifteen Churches

The three week Christ For Warren Revival got under way on Sunday night, June 24th with a really great victory. The prayers of many people and many years were culminated in this evangelistic campaign, the first Union campaign in Warren in more than twenty-five years.

### Large Tent Packed to Overflowing the First Night

The meetings are being held in a tent 120 x 60 ft. which has been set up in the County Fair Grounds. On the very first night every seat was taken and hundreds were standing, or sitting on the grass around the tent. The choir platform, seating over 100, had to be enlarged to accommodate many more who wanted to have a place in the chorus choir. God blessed the first service with many backsliders returning to God and several sinners accepting Christ as their personal Saviour.

Great Crowds and Wonderful Blessings in Spite of Bad Weather  
In spite of some rather heavy

showers, the crowds have kept coming and increasing from night to night throughout the first week. I spent the entire week preaching on themes such as "How to Have a Revival," "Prayer," "Soul-Winning," "Backsliding," etc., and we have seen the Lord work mightily in the hearts of His own children, convicting of sin and leading them to a place of yieldedness and consecration to His service. Evil habits have been confessed and forsaken and the Lord has given a real spirit of prayer and revival. In addition to this we have had sinners converted in every service during the week.

### Inspiring Song/Leading

The song leader, choir director and soloist for the campaign is Henry Holmbo of Chicago, a consecrated and Spirit-filled soul winner. He has a great voice and sings to the glory of God. The people have fallen in love with him and he has built a choir that sings to make you feel it in the depths of your soul.

(Continued on page four)



into our homes and calling them out. In the recognition of that right we are recognizing that the government has a right to demand our lives; for that is exactly what it means when a young man is called into the service of the United States Army and puts on the uniform. The government has made a call for his life if need be. We say the government has that right—and I might say here that if the government has that right, it also has the right, to demand of John L. Lewis and his crowd that "you stay in those coal mines." Nobody has the right and no group of men have a right to hold out and to endanger the defense program of the United States for any cause whatsoever, and it is time for the American citizenship to say so. Our boys are being inducted into the army at \$50 per month, and it is time to say to the whole crowd, "Stay on the job and see this thing through." Yes, the government has the priority claim upon all that we have. Why? Because the government guarantees the protection of our lives, and it is the only protection of our lives, our homes and our possessions. For that reason we recognize priority of the government's claim upon ourselves, our time, our money, our lives and our all.

But if the government has that right, I raise this question: How much greater right has God to the first claim upon our all? For how much more do we owe to God than to the government of the United States? How much more dependent are we upon Him than any people was ever dependent upon any government. God has a greater right to a priority claim upon me and my all than my government ever will or ever could have.

#### God Has Our First Claim by Creation

Listen to the word of God, "It is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves." As the creator certainly, He has the right for first claim upon His creatures. When men refuse to worship and to serve God, they deny the right of the Creator to their allegiance, their love and their worship. When unsaved people turn their backs on God, and refuse the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour they are denying that He has any claim on them; denying God's right to rule over His creatures; denying that God has a right to expect their love, their loyalty, their affections, and their allegiance. When an unsaved man dares to shut God out of his life he sets himself up as a rebel against God and says, as the Pharisee did in the days of Christ, "We will not have this man to rule over us." We are His creatures—we are His by right of creation.

Also let me say that when a Christian refuses to recognize—will you hear it—when a Christian refuses to recognize his stewardship of his life, of his time, of his possessions, of his talents, he is refusing to recognize God's right to make any claim on him. He has said, "I don't owe God anything." I will go further than that, at the risk of becoming unpopular with some people, and say that when a Christian refuses to tithe, he refuses to acknowledge God's ownership of his possessions. You may say that is putting it pretty strongly. But I say that the only way I can acknowledge God's ownership is to let God tell

me how much I will give to Him. Any other system, be it what it may—any other plan is saying to God "It is mine and I will tell you how much I am going to give." It is an outright denial of God's ownership. If you own a house or a business building down town and I move into it, I recognize your ownership of that property by letting you set the rent and I pay it. Every time I pay my rent the first of the month it is a recognition and an acknowledgment that you are the rightful owner of the building. If I should move in and take charge of your business house or your residence and tell you that I will pay you so much rent, then I am a usurper and claim the right to go in on your property and dictate to you what I will pay. And I say to you this morning from the depths of my soul the more I think about the matter as taught in God's Word of my stewardship and God's ownership, I repeat, there's but one way a Christian can acknowledge God's ownership, and that is to let God tell him how much he shall return to Him. I will go a step further and tell you that you will search this Book in vain to find any other proportion that God has ever said that His people shall return to Him except the tithe. If you refuse that, then you cannot find a system or any basis upon which you can acknowledge God's ownership—search all you will. God has said the tithe of all a man's increase belongs to God and is holy unto the Lord and shall be brought into the storehouse of God; thereby acknowledging God's ownership and man's stewardship of it. Now there is only one group that will criticize such preaching as this and that is the group who refuse to tithe.

#### We Are God's First Because of Preservation

God has first claim upon us not only because He created us, but because our very lives, the breath we breathe, the food we eat, the sustenance that keeps us alive, the heart beat that keeps the blood coursing through the veins—the very life that is within us is maintained and supplied by the God who created us. Like Daniel said to Belshazzar—"The sin, Belshazzar, of which you are guilty first of all is not the sin of debauchery, drunkenness and revelry that you have been committing all these days, but the primary sin of which you are guilty and for which the judgment of God has come upon you and for which you have been weighed and found wanting is that the God in whose hand thy breath is thou hast not glorified." In other words, the fact that the very breath he breathed was in God's hand, and that all his ways were in God's keeping was sufficient reason why he should glorify God. For the same reason we should recognize God's claim upon us.

#### We Are His by Right of Redemption

But we are His by a greater right than that. We are His by right of redemption. Oh God when I think of those words of holy writ—"You are not your own; you have been bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." I belong to God by right of redemption. Certainly none could possibly hold a greater right to a priority claim upon all that we have.

I wish you would take a little journey with me this morning into the garden of Gethsemane. See under an olive tree that prostrate form of the Son of God, and hear that cry, "Father, if it be possible let this cup pass from me. Being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground." Then see Him reach for that cup and say, "Not my will, but thine be done," as he lifts it to his lips and drinks it to the dregs. It was necessary that an angel from God come to stand by Him and strengthen Him lest He die before He reached the cross.

Then hear God say, "You are not your own; you have been bought with a price." Then follow Him into Pilate's judgment hall and there see them as they crown Him with a crown of thorns; see the blood streaming down His blessed face while they cover His face with their spittle, buffeting Him with their hands. They put a mock scepter, a reed, in His hand and a purple robe on His body and expose Him to their ridicule and shame, and heap all the insults they can upon Him. God is saying, "You are not your own, you have been bought with a price." Then see Him as they strip His body bare tying His hands to His feet and a Roman scourge tears its way into His back. "Surely he hath born our griefs, and carried our sorrows. He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." If you will listen there you will hear the blood like the patter of rain from off the roof of the house as it falls on the marble floor of that judgment hall—drip, drip, drip from the back of the Son of God. By those stripes we are healed. We are not our own; we have been bought with a price and we belong to God. Therefore we are under obligation to glorify God in our body, soul and spirit, for they are His, and He has the right to first claim.

Follow Him then as He staggers underneath the weight of the cross and see them strip His body naked and expose Him to all the shame and insult and disgrace they heap on Him. But my Bible says, "He endured the cross, despising the shame—cast it aside as nothing—for the joy that was set before him—the joy of redeeming my soul and your soul from sin. As He bleeds His life away the sun went out at noonday, and the midnight darkness of hell settled around the cross; God turns away and abandons Christ and He dies alone and dips His soul into Hell; and we hear the cries of a dying soul that is being made an offering for sin—a soul in travail, in such travail that this old earth rocked and reeled like a drunk man, and the rocks were rent from the sides of the mountains and tumbled down into the valleys below, as the Son of God is made the propitiation for our sin. In the darkness of that awful hour Christ cries out, "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me" as He bows His head and gives up the ghost. "You are not your own, you are bought with a price," and O what a price! It's the price of the soul of the Son of God as "He was made to be sin that I might be made the righteousness of God in Him." I say to you that if the milk of human gratitude has not dried up in a soul, that ought to break any heart; that ought to cause any redeemed soul to say, "Lord all that I have is at your command—my life, my soul, my time, my money, my all is yours. I will not quibble with you: it is yours and you tell me what you want me to do, and I will be found trying to the best of my ability to do it." God's claim upon us has priority; His claim comes first.

Throughout the Scriptures this claim is seen. Listen to it in the Word of God. "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me" (Matt. 10:37, 38). Listen again in Luke 9:57-62, "And it came to pass, that as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head. And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead; but go thou and preach

the kingdom of God. And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." Listen again in the fourteenth chapter of Luke. "If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. . . . So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple." What is God saying? That is God's way of saying that God is going to be first or He is not going to be at all. He is going to have first place or no place at all. He is not going to share honors with the devil in human lives.

#### God's Claim Extends to Every Phase of Our Lives

Jesus said, "You are my friends if you do what I command you." If we refuse to do it, then we are rebels against Him and not His friends. Hear me, this matter of priority is not just to satisfy a whim of God's. It must be required if a man is to make a full committal of his life to the will of God. There cannot be divided affections. No man can serve two masters: for he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

This matter of priority touches man at every vital point of his life. God told His people from the beginning to bring the first-born child. Why did God ask for the first instead of the second or last born? The second might have been more capable and more useful to the Lord than the first. So why would God specify the first-born? It is simply this: it starts the establishment of the family definitely on the side of God. If the mother and father bring the first-born and dedicate it to God, they are more likely to dedicate themselves, the home and the succeeding children to the Lord than they would be if they waited until the second or third child came into the home. It is God's call to put God first in the home; it is God's way of saying, "I want the home from the parents to the last child."

Then God said, "Bring the firstlings of your flock—the first-born of all the cattle and beasts is mine." Why the first-born among the cattle and beasts? Every stock raiser knows that the first-born of any mother animal is likely not to be the best that a mother will produce. The first-born calf, sheep or colt is more likely not to be as good as one born later. Then why does God say bring the first-born? It is because God wants that stock raiser more than He wants the stock. He wants that stock raiser to put God first and recognize God's claim before his own.

God commanded to bring the first-fruits saying, "Thou shalt not delay to offer the first of thy ripe fruits." Now every farmer knows that the first ripe fruit is not as good as that which ripens later on. Why didn't God say bring that which ripens later? It was because God wants that farmer to put God first. He wants the farmer and the stock raiser alike to recognize that if it were not for God, there would be no increase, nor harvest, nor ripe fruit. He wants them to know that God's claim comes first.

God wants first place in our affections. We find a very striking illustration of that in the Book of God where Elijah went to the home of the widow of Zarephath. He finds her gathering sticks—broken-hearted and weeping as she gathers them to cook the last morsel of meal she had in the house. A terrible famine was on in the land, and there was just enough meal in the barrel and oil in the cruse to cook one more

cake. Elijah asked her for a morsel of bread. She replied, "As the Lord thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse; and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die." And Elijah said unto her, "Fear not; go and do as thou hast said; but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son." That would look like a heartless demand, wouldn't it, to bring the last morsel in the house to Elijah, instead of giving it to a starving child? Why would God make such a demand as that? He is teaching His people that God's claim is first even over that of a starving child; and teaching this other lesson, that if you put God's claim first, just like He multiplied the meal in the barrel and the oil in the cruse for the widow, He will take care of the hungry mouths in your home. "All of these things," said Paul, "happened to them for an example unto us." Acknowledge God first: seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness first—recognize His claim first, and God Almighty that has redeemed us from our sins has said, "All these (other) things shall be added unto you."

Put God first in your life; put God first with your time; put God first with your possessions; put God first in all your interests, literally God first. For God said, for us to bring all the first-fruits of our increase. Listen to it, "Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase." God said to bring it on the first day of the week because the first day is the Lord's Day—the best day of all—the day set apart and named the Lord's Day. What did God say He will do when I come to the Lord's house with the first-fruits of our increase to honor Him? "So shall thy barns be filled with plenty and thy presses shall burst out with new wine." . . . "All these things shall be added unto you."

Let me read from a modern translation of the New Testament 2 Cor. 9:6-12. "Mark this; he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. But let each give according to the purpose of his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion. It is a cheerful giver that God loves. And God is able to give you an overflowing measure of every grace, so that all your wants of every kind may be supplied at all times, and you may give of your abundance to every good work; As it is written: He scattered broadcast; He gave to the poor; His giving continues forever. He who ever supplies seed to the sower, and bread for

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the food of man, will supply and make plenteous your seed, and increase the harvest springing up from your giving. You yourselves will be enriched with all good things, that you may give ungrudgingly; and your gifts, of which I am the agent, will make men give thanks to God." That is the promise of the Lord in the New Testament to His people. The same Lord who said in the Old Testament, "Bring the whole tithe into my storehouse and prove me now herewith . . . if I will not open you the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it." The same Lord who said during His earthly ministry, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over." The same Lord who told us not to worry about anything—food or clothing—but put God first, recognize the priority of God's claims and "all these things shall be added unto you."

I saw a most impressive example

of what I have been saying yesterday in a home where there has been a long spell of illness. The man said to me, "I am faced with a hospital bill of over eight hundred dollars." We prayed together, and when I got up to leave he brought out a little brief case and said, "Brother Hankins, I will not get to be at church tomorrow, but here's some of God's tithe. I wish you would take it to the Lord's house for me in the morning." He took \$22.75 out of that little black purse hid down in that brief case and gave it to me to bring this morning. That is exactly like it ought to be. Oh the blessed promises that God made to those who will do it! Beloved, upon the authority of God's eternal, inspired Word, I bring you God's promise that if you will put God first, recognize His claim first. He will supply all of these other things—you can count on Him for anything else you will ever need. Oh God, give us faith to believe and practice it in our lives.

You were not grateful in your hearts.

How many of you who are listening to me today know that God has been good to you. How many of you have a kind, good wife who loves you and has been good to you. God sent to your home little babies, dear little ones. And the clutches of those little fingers on your hand were meant to lead you to God! Every day you have had food, and comfort, and rest. You have had protection from the weather. You have had clothes and fuel. How good God has been! And you do not thank Him. You have no gratitude to God. His mercies, unappreciated, bring the anger of God. You had better "prepare to meet thy God."

### 3. God Is Angry Over Unheeded Warnings

Another thing that brings the wrath of God is warnings unheeded. God is angry with people who will not heed His warnings. He said, "Your young men have I slain with the sword, and yet have ye not returned unto me. Some of your people have been killed by the pestilence, and yet have ye not returned unto me."

God has been dealing with America in judgment. I know that God surely will help us to come out in this war, because we are on the right side. I know God is going to give us victory, and that is well and good. But did you ever think that God has some meaning for you, individually, in it? Some of you have a boy overseas, and yet even now you never have a family altar. Some of you men are like a man I met two years ago in the Gospel Tabernacle in Chicago. It was the first Sunday night of the new year. He held up his hand for prayer, and when I talked to him he said, "Preacher, I have just learned two weeks ago that my boy has gone to North Africa in that invasion. I started out to pray to God to keep my only boy. But I am not fit to pray! I need someone to pray for me! I cannot pray—God will not hear me. I try to pray for my boy and I am not saved myself!"

Well, that man learned his lesson. Many of you have not. Some of you have a boy overseas, and you go on with your drinking, cursing, blaspheming, and godlessness. Many of you mothers weep over your boys, but you have not repented and turned to God. I say, God is angry over mercies unappreciated, and warnings unheeded. You have not listened to the call of God. You have not listened to the Bible any more in wartime than you did in peacetime. If God spared you, then you did not hear. If God punished you, still you did not repent. So God says, "Prepare to meet thy God." Prepare to meet thy God, because He is angry.

### II Therefore Prepare

Then I call your attention to the second thought here: prepare for the second coming of Jesus, prepare for death, and prepare for coming judgment.

#### 1. For Christ's Coming

You say, "Brother Rice, do you believe Jesus is coming?" I say frankly, I know He is coming, though I do not know when. I do not know that it will be today. I do not know that it will not be today. He said, "In such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh" (Matthew 24:44). The Scripture also says that we are to "watch therefore, for we know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh" (Matthew 25:13). Jesus said, "What I say unto you I say unto all, Watch." (Mark 13:37). He said it would be as sudden as a thief coming in the night. He said it would be as sudden as it was on unprepared people in the days of Noah when the flood came and took them all away. They ate and drank. They gave in marriage and were given in marriage until suddenly the windows of Heaven were opened, and the doors to the ark were already closed, and they were

left out. So sudden will the coming of the Saviour be. I do not know when, whether this week or next week, this year or next year—or in ten years. I cannot tell you when Jesus will come. But you need to be ready, for He may come at any moment. Prepare to meet thy God. Oh, with what trembling lips and with what tear-stained faces and with what hearts beating with terror will the unconverted man, woman or child face the Lord Jesus when He comes!

#### 2. Prepare to Die

Then, you need preparation for death. Are you ready to die? "Oh," someone says, "I don't like deathbed tales in the pulpit." I know, I have heard that until I am tired of it. You do not like deathbed tales in the pulpit; you will not like one in your own bedroom, either; but you are going to have it. And you are playing the fool exceedingly if you do not turn and get ready to meet God. Prepare to meet God! In Hebrews 9:27, the Scriptures says, "And it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." Appointed to die! Appointed to die.

You say, "Well, I don't think I'll die soon." No, I know you do not. But you may.

Suppose there are 700,000 people listening to this broadcast today. I do not know—there are probably more than that. But suppose there are 700,000 people listening. In seventy years all of you will be dead. Very few of you will be over eighty years old when you die. Seventy years! That will mean that 10,000 of you listening to me this morning will die in a year's time. Tomorrow when you listen in, you can remember that some thirty, or forty, or fifty people have died who heard this broadcast. Why, in a few short weeks hundreds will have died. Every day a certain number will die who heard me this morning. I warn you to prepare to meet God. Prepare to meet death. Death is coming! With some it will come today. Every hour between now and tomorrow somebody will die who heard this broadcast. Death, oh, death! Prepare to meet death! For God is going to call you to meet Him.

#### 3. Prepare for Judgment

You must prepare for the judgment. God is going to open up the record books one day. The books will be opened and you will be judged out of those things written in the books, if you are unconverted. (Rev. 20:11-15) What are you going to do?

#### III How Prepare to Meet God?

Now, how can you prepare to meet God? I briefly give you a word or two.

First of all, it must be a heart preparation. I am not talking about going to church more, giving more money, getting baptized, or being confirmed. Those things are all right in their places, but they do not make you ready to meet God. All the money you could give will haunt you one day when you say, "I played the fool. In my poor, wicked, vile heart I turned away from God and thought I could bribe Him with money or religious ceremonies." You cannot do it. No! No! This

must be a heart preparation.

How can you prepare to meet God? You must repent of your sins. God never is on the side of any kind of Christianity, any kind of religion which does not mean a heart that turns honestly in confession and forsaking of sin. We call that repentance—not just feeling sorry for sin, but a heart turning away from sin the best you know. I am not talking about how good you are. None of us are good. But in our hearts we can hate our sins and can turn our hearts away from our sins and be against our sins. If you do not do that you are going to Hell. Remember Jesus said, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish," in Luke chapter 13, verse 3. In verse 5 He said it again, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." So it is repent or perish. To get ready to meet God means that you must turn your heart from your sins and admit to God that you need forgiveness and salvation.

And second, it must also mean trusting Jesus for salvation. He died for you. He said, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). He died to save you, wants to save you, will save you the moment you trust Him. "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life" (John 3:36). No one ever honestly risked Jesus for salvation who did not get it. Will you depend upon Him and trust Him? Will you turn to Him now for salvation? Oh, if you will, write and let us know. Just write

Evangelist John R. Rice,  
214 West Wesley Street,  
Wheaton, Illinois,

and say, "Today after reading your sermon on 'Prepare to Meet Thy God,' I have repented of my sins, have trusted Christ to forgive me and save me, and believe that He has." I will write you a letter of counsel and comfort.

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## Book Club . . .

(Continued from page one)  
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—M. E. T., St. Albans, New York.

These are only a limited number of the grateful comments we have received from enthusiastic Club members.

### What The Best Book Club In America Should Be Like

In our judgment there are seven distinct qualifications that must be met before any Club can ever become a candidate for the title "The Best Book Club in America." They are as follows:

1. High Christian Ideals
2. The Best Available Christian Judges
3. The Finest Books Published
4. A Good Variety of Selections
5. First-Class Service
6. Real Savings to its Members
7. A Non-Profit Organization Existing for Service Rather Than for the Purpose of Making Money.

There are many book clubs in America, but how many of them can meet these unusually high qualifications? Examine them all very carefully and see how they measure up.

Now, consider how the Sword Book Club meets each of these qualifications:

#### 1. High Christian Ideals

The Sword Book Club will not offer a book to the public which is not absolutely trustworthy and sound Scripturally. No book of a questionable or shady character receives even the slightest consideration. Unless a book can measure up to the high standards of "THE SWORD OF THE LORD," it does not stand a chance of being considered as a possible monthly selection. Besides demanding that books be of a high moral character and thoroughly dependable Scripturally, we require that they meet very exacting literary requirements and must be readable and interesting.

#### 2. The Best Available Christian Judges

If the very best book is to be culled from among the many books being published each month and presented to the public as the "best Christian book," then of necessity, this must be done by men who are preeminently qualified for the task. This important responsibility must not be assigned to just anybody, nor to any one individual. Because we have felt this to be extremely important, we have selected several of the greatest Christian leaders in America, and have invited them to serve on our Board of Judges. Because of their acceptance of this invitation, we have the privilege of presenting the most distinguished Board of Judges of any book club in America. They are men of unusual and wide experience and ability. They represent every section of the country, a variety of Christian and professional activities and large sections of the various denominational groups of our day. The following Christian leaders constitute our present Board of Judges:

John W. Bradbury, D.D., Editor, "The Watchman-Examiner," New York; V. Raymond Edman, Ph.D., LL.D., President, Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois; Henry Hepburn, D.D., Pastor, Buena Memorial Presbyterian Church, Chicago, Illinois; H. A. Ironside, D.D., LL.D., Pastor, Moody Memorial Church, Chicago, Illinois; Torrey M. Johnson, D.D., Pastor, Midwest Bible Church, Chicago, Illinois; Robert G. Lee, D.D., LL.D., pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tennessee; Hon. Pat M. Neff, LL.D., Litt.D., President, Baylor University, Waco, Texas; T. Roland Phillips, D.D., Pastor, Arlington Presbyterian Church, Baltimore, Md.; John R. Rice, D.D., Litt.D., Evangelist, Editor, "The Sword of the Lord," Wheaton, Illinois; Robert Lee Stuart, D.D., Ph. B., President, Taylor Univer-

sity, Upland, Indiana; Louis T. Talbot, D.D., Pastor, Church of the Open Door, Los Angeles, California; Robert J. Wells, Th.D., Evangelist, Associate Editor, "The Sword of the Lord," Wheaton, Illinois.

The Directors of the Club are at the present time giving prayerful consideration to some other outstanding leaders representing other large denominations, and announcement concerning this will be made in due time.

#### 3. The Finest Books Published

Much of the literature, even the Christian literature, that is being published is not fit to be read. Most of the books that are sent to us for our consideration as monthly selections are mediocre and below our high standards and so cannot possibly be favorably considered. This presents a very difficult problem for the Directors of the Club, but we are so determined to have only the best books that we would rather not offer any book than to offer one that is inferior in any way. We go to great lengths in seeking the cooperation of all the religious publishers in America, and also of those who privately publish their books, requesting them to send review copies to us. These books are then carefully examined by the Directors of the Club to see if they meet our very exacting requirements. Then those that meet our high standards are sent to the judges, who in turn examine them, making first, second and third choice, and then send their review and comments concerning each book to the Club office. Here these reports are carefully tabulated for the purpose of selecting the one book, which in the opinion of these distinguished judges, is really the best book for the month. This book then becomes the monthly selection. If we are not able to find a worthy book from among those currently being published, we then consider other books of real merit, although in some cases, they have been in print for some time.

#### 4. A Good Variety Of Selections

The "SWORD BOOK CLUB" believes that a Christian's library should contain books of varying subjects and content. Christians should read some fiction, but this should be limited and should be in proportion to other good books. There should be books of a devotional nature, doctrinal books, books of sermons, biographies, missionary books, books about present day conditions, books of Bible exposition and books of instruction in various phases of the Christian life and ministry. Hence, we are including the entire field of good religious books for consideration from which to select the very best book each month regardless of its subject matter.

#### 5. First Class Service

The "best book club in America" should be one that offers real service to its members. The SWORD BOOK CLUB is making an earnest attempt to provide the very best service to every one of its many, many members. We have installed the most efficient methods; first, for handling books in our shipping department, and, second, for keeping careful record of each member's account. We endeavor to have all books available at the proper time and to ship them to the member with the least possible delay. We send the "SWORD BOOK CLUB NEWS," a regular monthly paper, to all members, informing them of the forthcoming monthly selection, and of the other outstanding books which are available. A Subscription Form is enclosed so that the member may substitute some other book or books, or request us not to send the regularly monthly selection, just as he wishes. We also offer every member efficient service in procuring books by all Christian publishers at regular retail rates.

#### 6. Real Savings to Members

In spite of high costs and unusually difficult conditions during these war times, the SWORD

BOOK CLUB makes no charges for wrapping, postage and shipping, and the monthly SWORD BOOK CLUB NEWS is also sent to each member free of charge. All prices are regular retail prices or less, the best selling, popular, attractive books are always offered as premiums and book dividends. A search is being made now for the very best Christian books EVER published from among which we will select several titles for editions to be used as dividends and special premiums. When the war is over, and paper again becomes available and when our membership is a little larger, we will print our selections in special editions at specially reduced prices and at great savings to our members.

#### 7. A Non-Profit Organization

The SWORD BOOK CLUB is a non-profit organization. It has been developed for the purpose of ministering to the needs of thousands of Christians who need help in the selection of the books they read and not for the purpose of making money. None of the officers of the Club and none of the judges receive any income from the Club. All receipts are used to build the club to the position of influence it deserves as the greatest and best book club in America.

Such an outstanding book club merits your confidence! Have you become a member? If not, why not clip a coupon from one of the recent issues of "THE SWORD OF THE LORD," and send in your Application for Membership today?

## With the Evangelists

(Continued from page one)

#### Some Outstanding Conversions

There have been many outstanding conversions during this first week. One night, Monday, I think, an elderly man who had lost his wife and daughter and who had gone out into deep sin came forward to accept Christ as Saviour. He was in great need and he meant business with God. He came back the next night to tell that God had supplied his particular needs, had given him a job and he was happy in the Lord. On another night a young girl who had fallen into deep, deep sin came forward with a broken heart to tell me of her awful sin and to ask if it was too much to expect Jesus to save her. As I pointed to the One who delights in saving the very chiefest of sinners she trusted Him to save even her and then opened up her purse and threw out her compact saying "I won't need this any more." Others have given up tobacco including one elderly woman, above sixty years of age, I judge, who said "I see it now, it's wrong and I want to get complete victory over the habit."

#### Two Sailors and a Naval Officer

On Friday night there were nine actual conversions besides many backsliders. Among them were two sailor boys visiting Warren on their furlough who came forward in response to a clean-cut invitation to accept Christ by faith. They have been in actual combat and know the awful reality of death and the uncertainty of life. One of them said to me "I have seen my buddies' arms and legs and even hands blown off, I have seen hundreds of men blown to bits without an instant's warning and I know it pays to be ready. I know you speak the truth and I want to trust Christ as my Saviour." Another man who trusted the Lord that night was a young Naval officer who said "I have been in the thick of combat and I thank God that He brought me through eight very tight places on the last trip and made it possible for me to find Him and know what it really means to live!"

European Combat Soldier Returned From German Prison Camp Sunday night the power of God

was felt in a marvelous way. The tent was packed with every chair filled and people still pouring in. We sent for two more truck loads of chairs and these were all filled and people were still standing around and sitting on the grass on the sides. I preached on "Turn or Burn" and some 35 people came forward to place faith in Christ as Saviour. Brother Kenneth Amsler, chairman of the executive committee dealt with a soldier boy who had spent two years in actual combat in Europe and three months in a German Prison Camp. Brother Amsler said that he was gloriously saved and just kept thanking the Lord repeatedly for sparing his life and letting him know Christ in His saving power.

#### A Catholic Man and Many Others

On Saturday night a Catholic man who had been in a Protestant church only three times in his lifetime was happily converted. That same evening a young boy of about 17 said "yes" to Jesus and as I finished dealing with him in his seat and he started down the aisle, his uncle who had brought him said "Oh, thank you, you don't know what has been done in that case. If you could only know the background of this conversion you would know it is really a miracle." He was so happy I thought he would jump out of his seat. A big, husky man, a former city policeman gave his heart to the Lord in the Sunday night service and then said "I know I'm saved, thank God." People had been praying for him for years and one man said "The cost of this entire campaign would be justified and well worthwhile just to get that one man saved." Many young people have yielded to Christ and in the Saturday Youth service some sixty of them promised to go "all out" for Jesus and to give up the world and make whatever sacrifices were necessary to that end.

#### All Night Prayer Meeting

The blessings of the Lord have been ours and most of us feel that it is largely due to the prayer interest of the people. Much prayer has been made to God for His blessings including a special season of prayer after the Wednesday night service when a large number (I estimate about 70) stayed for an all night prayer meeting. Some had to leave early and others went home and came back. We prayed for several hours and had a time of special blessing. God willing we will have another one this week.

#### Arminian and Calvinistic Differences Set Aside

Several of the churches co-operating in the campaign are Arminian in theology and others are Calvinistic, but all lesser theological differences have been set aside and hearts have been united in a great effort to win souls. The spirit of co-operation has been exceptionally fine, and all of the co-operating groups and pastors have rallied to the support of this unworthy preacher who preaches the old time Gospel in the old fashioned way.

There are two more weeks to go and we are praying that the God of Revival will work wonders and perform "great and mighty things" beyond our ability to comprehend.

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## WHAT'S COOKIN'

(Continued from page one)

dent of the American Prophetic League, says:

#### "It's Good

"Many useful books have come from the pen of Dr. John R. Rice. The American Prophetic League takes special interest in his latest, 'The Coming Kingdom of Christ,' for it is the kind of a book needed to instruct young Christians in prophetic truth. It is remarkably clear, simple Bible teaching, and from the fact that about a third of the matter is Scripture quotation, it will be seen that Dr. Rice intends for the Book to speak for itself. We want to commend this \$1.25 book to teachers and to any who would like in concise form the whole outline of Bible prophecy."

Thank you, Dr. Brooks, we agree with you.

The Evangel of Largo, Florida, has a good review of this book also:

"The Coming Kingdom of Christ by Evangelist John R. Rice, D.D. Here is a very interesting and helpful book on Bible Prophecy especially concerning Israel and the Messianic Kingdom. The writer believes in the literal interpretation of the Scriptures concerning this great and important subject and quotes the Scripture in full as proof of every statement made. In this book you will find a clear and Scriptural presentation of Bible truth concerning the Coming of Our Lord to establish His Kingdom here upon earth. Read it and be convinced. (B.A.). Published by Sword of the Lord Publishers, Wheaton Ill. (148 pages, Cloth; Price \$1.25)."

An all time favorite is, *Prayer—Asking and Receiving*. About this book a good Christian physician, Dr. W. M. Rush wrote from Buechel, Kentucky:

"I have just finished reading Rev. Rice's *Prayer—Asking and Receiving*. This book has taught me more about prayer and its effect on true consecrated Christian work and living than I have ever known before.

"I will be seventy-four years old July 3, if my life be spared. For nearly forty years I have been an elder in a Presbyterian Church, but I never knew the power of effectual fervent prayer until I read this splendid book by Dr. Rice on prayer.

"I feel I am really enjoying my Christian life more, and getting more joy out of Christian work than any prior time in my life.

"This all makes me so anxious to meet dear Dr. Rice face to face so I can thank him personally for the joy he has brought to my heart.

"I am enjoying very much the splendid articles in the *Sword of the Lord*."

Dr. Rush then said that he plans to be at the Conference on Evangelism at Winona Lake, Indiana, July 15-22, and sent his reservation.

Prayer sells for \$1.50 a copy.

*Bible Facts About Heaven* has been out of print, but now we have begun to receive copies of the twelfth edition from the printer. This makes a total of 134,600 copies that have been printed. The new printing has a pictured cover, and is very attractive.

You will want to get a number to have for the unsaved, and for the discouraged, the old, the bereaved. 25c each, 5 for \$1.00 still. Order from Sword of the Lord Publishers, 214 West Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois.

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